

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.- 8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method for presenting related items in a universal data storage device to a user, the method comprising:

accessing data in said universal data storage device, wherein said universal data storage device stores a plurality of items in accordance with a universal data schema, and wherein at least a portion of said plurality of items contain relational information which allows relationships between said plurality of items to be determined;

utilizing said relational information to determine a relationship between a selected item and one or more of the items containing said relational information in the data storage device, wherein said relationship has a relationship type; and

displaying said selected item and one or more related items to the user, wherein said displaying includes presenting the displayed items with a shell view schema stored in association with said relationship type, wherein said displaying further includes presenting one or more display elements defined by at least a portion of the displayed items, wherein conflicts between said shell view schema and said one or more display elements are resolved in favor of said shell view schema.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the displaying of said selected item and one or more related items includes displaying at least a portion of said relational information to a user.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said method further comprises receiving a user input representing a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the displaying of said selected item and one or more related items is responsive to said input.

13.- 17 (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A shell for presenting related items in a universal data storage device to a user, the shell comprising:

a data storage device interaction component which retrieves data associated with one or more items from the universal data storage device, wherein said one or more items are stored in accordance with a universal data schema and at least a portion of said one or more items contain relational information that allows relationships between two or more items to be determined;

a related item presentation component which utilizes said retrieved data to present related items to a user, wherein the relationship presentation component is configured to present a selected item to a user and is further configured to utilize said relational information to present one or more items in said data storage device which are related to said selected item; and

a shell view component that stores a plurality of shell view schemas that are associated with one or more relationship types, wherein each of at least a portion of said plurality of shell view schemas identifies one or more visual elements selected as appropriate for display with items of one of said one or more relationship types,

wherein said related item presentation component presents said related items with one or more display elements defined by at least a portion of the related items and with one of said plurality of shell view schemas, wherein conflicts between a shell view schema and said one or more display elements are resolved in favor of said shell view schema.

19. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 18, wherein the relational information corresponding to one or more of said plurality of items includes a set of item characteristics.

20. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 19, wherein said related item presentation component is configured to present one or more of said set of item characteristics to a user.

21. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 19, wherein said related item presentation component is configured to present one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said item characteristics.

22. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 18, wherein the related item presentation component is configured to present at least a portion of said relational information.

23. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 18, wherein the shell is configured to accept a user input representing a selection to view items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item.

24. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 23, wherein said relational information corresponding to the selected item includes a set of item characteristics

associated with the selected item and wherein said user input represents a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said set of item characteristics with the selected item.

25 - 28 (canceled)